

Digital Decade Country Report 2023

Bulgaria

Introduction

Bulgaria has scope to improve its performance in the digital transition and to contribute to the collective efforts to achieve the EU's Digital Decade targets. While Bulgaria continues to perform well in connectivity both on very high-capacity network (VHCN) and fibre to the premises (FTTP), the uneven distribution of digital infrastructure in rural areas requires further attention. Furthermore, the uptake of digital public services is still low and targeted measures are needed, in particular to minimise the administrative burden placed on companies. Significant efforts should be made in the promotion of digital skills.

Bulgaria is collaborating with other Member States in exploring the possibility to set up a **European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC)** on Genome, to enable effective and secure cross-border access to repositories of personal genomic datasets.

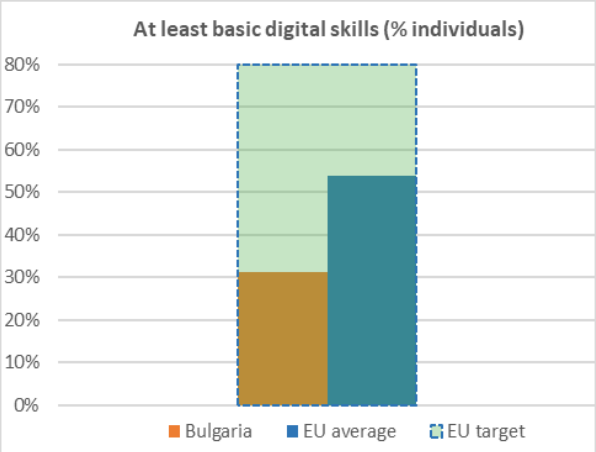
Digital in Bulgaria's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)

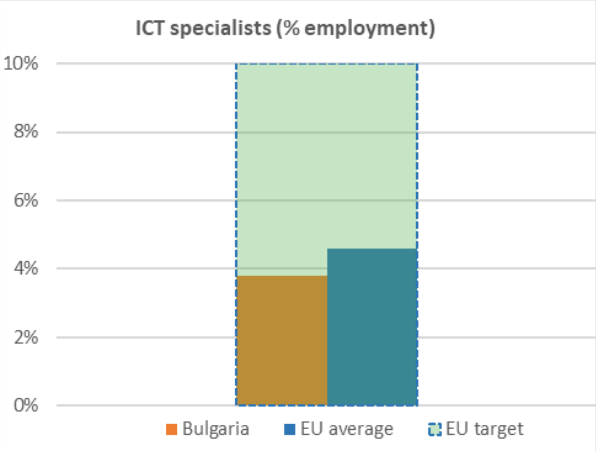
The Bulgarian RRP amounts to EUR 6.27 billion. 25.8% of it (EUR 1.6 billion) is devoted to the digital transformation, of which EUR 1.01 billion is expected to contribute to the Digital Decade targets[1]. In the context of the first payment request, Bulgaria has achieved 11 milestones and targets. Several of them were related to measures in the digital area, such as reducing spectrum fees, legislative changes implementing recommendations under the Connectivity Toolbox, and awarding contracts to develop the TETRA system and radio relay network. Regarding the second payment request, Bulgaria is expected to achieve 66 milestones and targets out of the 346 in total in the Bulgarian plan.

[1] Each Recovery and Resilience Plan must dedicate at least 20% of the plan's total allocation to digital objectives. To this end, the plans had to specify and justify to what extent each measure contributes fully (100%), partly (40%) or has no impact (0%) on digital objectives, using Annex VII of the RRF Regulation. Combining the coefficients with the cost estimates of each measure allows assessing to what degree the plan contributes to digital objectives and whether it meets the 20% target. Furthermore, a further qualitative assessment of the data took place to allow for an estimation of the possible contribution of RRF measure to the Digital Decade targets. The information provided refers to the Recovery and Resilience Plan as adopted by the Council before 1 September 2023, without prejudice to potential ongoing revisions of the plan.

1 Digital skills

	Bulgaria			EU	EU
	DESI 2021	DESI 2022	DESI 2023	DESI 2023	2030 target
1a1 Internet use	**69%**	**74%**	**79%**	**89%**	
% individuals	2020	2021	2022	2022	
1a2 At least basic digital skills	**NA**	**31%**	**31%**	**54%**	**80%**
% individuals		2021	2021	2021	
1a3 Above basic digital skills	**NA**	**8%**	**8%**	**26%**	
% individuals		2021	2021	2021	
1a4 At least basic digital content creation skills	**NA**	**44%**	**44%**	**66%**	
% individuals		2021	2021	2021	
1a5 Enterprises providing ICT training	**7%**	**7%**	**9%**	**22%**	
% enterprises	2020	2020	2022	2022	
1b1 ICT specialists	**3.3%**	**3.5%**	**3.8%**	**4.6%**	**20 million**
% individuals in employment aged 15-74	2020	2021	2022	2022	**~10%**
1b2 ICT graduates	**4.0%**	**4.6%**	**4.9%**	**4.2%**	
% graduates	2019	2020	2021	2021	





Bulgaria is contributing only moderately to the Digital Decade target in digital skills. Only 31% of people have at least basic digital skills, which is below the EU average of 54% and the lowest in the EU which is a risk for the collective Member States' achievement of the EU 2030 targets. The gap with the EU average is also very high when it comes to people with above basic digital skills (8% compared to 26% at EU level). A good indicator which can lead to a wider use of technology in the country, is the rise of ICT trainings offered by enterprises, which is starting to increase compared to previous years. The country also scores low in people with at least basic digital content creation skills (44% compared to 66% at EU level).

Bulgaria is currently implementing several measures that can contribute to increase the level of basic digital skills targeting professionals and the education system. For example, the grant scheme 'Joint actions for social partners for the development of digital skills' which helps various professionals acquiring digital skills still runs under the umbrella of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Another

initiative to support gender equality and anti-discriminatory principles are established under the supervision of the National Strategy for the promotion of Equality of Women and Men. The educational programme 'Education for tomorrow', focused on ICT training, has been established for educators and students to strengthen their digital skills. The educational content is provided through an educational platform, free of charge. More than 800 teachers and 5 200 students have been trained in basic and advanced digital skills. Moreover, a new programme, 'Rails Girls' to support women in basic digital skills has been adopted in 2022. Another initiative is the 'Hello Space' festival hosted by many organisations for embracing youth in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). Until July 2022 the two annual editions of the festival attracted over 3 000 people and millions of online participants.

Bulgaria is working together with other Member States of the region to foster cross-border collaboration to enhance the EU 2030 targets in digital skills. In this context, there is the national funder project Generation Z: Building up disinformation resilience of the leaders of tomorrow, which uses AI to detect false information spreading on social media. The Women in STEM is an Erasmus+ project that Bulgaria is participating in. The project value is EUR 250 000 and the scope is to build and support more women in pursuing a career in STEM. Since November 2022, a new initiative supported by the European Investment Bank, AI&I Factory, has aimed to deepen the knowledge of AI to youth in everyday life and help in experimentation on creating innovative ideas and attract more females in the tech industry. The initiative targeted 50 young participants, aged 18 – 30, from five universities who attended a series of lectures and mentoring sessions guided by mentors from the tech industry.

The country has a low share of ICT specialists: the percentage of ICT specialists of total employment is 3.8%, remaining below the EU average (4.6%). In parallel, only 9% of enterprises provide ICT training to their employees, 13 percentage points below the EU average. However, 4.9% of graduates are in ICT programmes, which is above the EU average. Bulgaria performs best in the EU as regards the share of female ICT specialists at 28.9%, against an EU average of 18.9%. Bulgaria's overall weak performance in ICT specialists available in the job market also has implications for the EU's efforts to reach the DD target of 20 million ICT specialists[2].

Bulgaria is currently working on several programmes and initiatives to address this shortcoming.

The Human Resources Development Programme introduced a measure providing specific ICT training in digital skills which is expected to contribute to the Digital Decade target for ICT specialists. The programme foresees 161 000 people to take part in trainings by 2029. The total budget of the measure is EUR 17.3 million. Another educational programme, KiTE Projects, focusing on young creators in STEM workshops, takes place every year with young participants from multiple Bulgarian cities. The Bulgarian National Platform for Digital Skills and Jobs provides open access to high-quality resources for national policies in digital skills and good practices in the area of training in digital skills.

ILIAD is a Horizon 2020 project in which Bulgaria participates and will equally support the development of advanced digital skills by sharing technical expertise between the project members. The project capitalises on the expertise and the advanced computing infrastructures available at the AI Laboratory in the Technical University of Varna. The initiative CloudEARTHi aims to build capacity for innovation across higher education institutions and businesses. The project has a total budget of EUR 1.2 million and it is co-funded by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT).

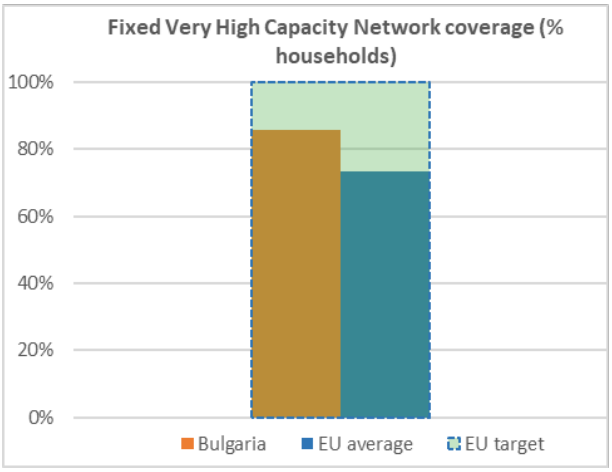
[2] Which corresponds to about 10% of total employment.

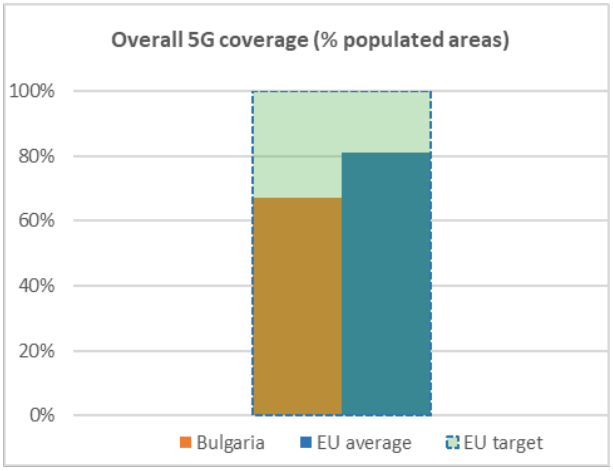
Bulgaria should significantly step up its efforts in the area of digital skills. *In particular, Bulgaria should* ensure *a whole-of-government approach to coordinate more effectively and efficiently the development, implementation, and evaluation of digital education policy and strengthen the involvement of relevant stakeholders. It should step up upskilling and reskilling of the labour force, including by mobilising EU funds or by using the European Technical Support Instrument to develop, deliver and evaluate programmes addressing specific adult learning needs*[3].

[3] The recommended policies, measures, and actions in this document reflect the Commission Communication 'Report on the state of the Digital Decade' COM(2023) 570.

2 Digital infrastructures

	Bulgaria			EU	EU
	DESI 2021	DESI 2022	DESI 2023	DESI 2023	2030 target
2a1 At least 100 Mbps broadband take-up	**20%**	**30%**	**39%**	**55%**	
% households	2020	2021	2022	2022	
2a2 At least 1 Gbps broadband take-up	**0.4%**	**0.6%**	**0.8%**	**13.8%**	
% households	2020	2021	2022	2022	
2a3 Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage	**75%**	**81%**	**86%**	**73%**	**100%**
% households	2020	2021	2022	2022	
2a4 Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) coverage	**75%**	**81%**	**86%**	**56%**	
% households	2020	2021	2022	2022	
2b1 Mobile broadband take-up	**60%**	**73%**	**73%**	**87%**	
% individuals	2018	2021	2021	2021	
2b2 Overall 5G coverage	**0%**	**40%**	**67%**	**81%**	**100%**
% populated areas	2020	2021	2022	2022	
2b3 5G spectrum	**25%**	**25%**	**63%**	**68%**	
Assigned spectrum as a % of total harmonised 5G spectrum	2021	2022	2023	2023	





Bulgaria performs well in terms of VHCN coverage reaching 86% and is above the EU average of 73%. In this respect Bulgaria can make an important contribution to the relevant Digital Decade target. Equally, the FTTP coverage is with 86% significantly above the EU average of 56%. Despite the impressive coverage, Bulgaria needs to make further efforts to boost take-up which remains low in particular for the at least 1Gbps broadband at 0.8% compared to the EU average of 13%.

In terms of 5G, Bulgaria scores below the EU average in overall 5G coverage (67% vs 81%). Mobile broadband take-up remains at 73% below the EU average of 87%. During the reporting period, the National Regulatory Authority issued provisional authorisations to three major mobile network operators (MNOs) for the remaining unassigned 5G bands, apart from the 3.6 GHz spectrum band which has been assigned since 2021. More specifically, in sub-GHz bands a 3x20 MHz has been

assigned in the 700 MHz band and 3x20 MHz has been assigned in the 800 MHz band. Under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, Bulgarian public authorities have signed an agreement with the Air Force to conduct test trials in 2023 in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands to identify the impact of the transmissions on ground-based military radio navigation systems.

Moreover, in the 26 GHz band the NRA has issued four authorisations for granting a total spectrum of 1.6 GHz to three undertakings for 5G network deployment. Furthermore, in 2022 a procedure was carried out to assign additional spectrum in the 1800 MHz band and the NRA issued authorisation to three undertakings to use 2 x 20 MHz each and a total wireless spectrum allocation of 120 MHz.

For the first half of 2022 the take-up of mobile broadband in terms of number of subscribers has increased by 3%. However, most of the subscribers (65%) are subscribed mainly to 4G mobile services.

In terms of market developments, one of the MNOs active in Bulgaria, has completed an upgrade towards a fully autonomous 5G network. The new network will offer higher capacity, higher speeds and reduced latency. In October 2022, a 5G product test laboratory has been set up to shorten the production time and the overall time-to-market of optical cables and components for communication networks which are built in Sofia.

In 2022, the European Electronic Communications Code transposition has been finalised and Bulgaria notified it as complete. As part of this process, measures were taken to address universal access for people with disabilities and make it more affordable for people with low income. With regard to regulated access, the NRA has adopted a Decision in June 2022 for the definition, analysis and assessment of the wholesale market.

The telecom sector in Bulgaria has green policies which are reviewed and updated at an annual basis to stay aligned with the EU sustainability goals. To improve the environmental footprint and the energy consumption of electronic communication networks, Bulgaria promotes the deployment of fibre cables in public sector buildings to replace less energy efficient copper cables. All telecom operators are committed to decrease their carbon footprint and gradually switch to clean energy and renewable sources. For example, one operator announced plans to invest in solar and wind renewable energy. The park includes a 70 MW wind farm capable of producing 230 MWh per year and 40 MW photovoltaic park with expected production of 68 KWh per year. The renewable energy plant is expected to be fully operational in 2023. The NRA adopted rules to increase the security standards of networks and services. The new rules are aligned with measures from the 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox.

In 2022, the Ministry of Innovation and Growth (MIG) established a Working Group on Semiconductors (WGS) with representatives from the public administration, non-government associations and universities. The working group will consult and support MIG's activities in making semiconductors a strategic asset for the industrial value chain in Bulgaria. Experts in the group will be able to share good practices and know-how towards the preparation and implementation of public policies in the field of microelectronics by facilitating pro-active exchange of information on the state of the ecosystem, raising awareness and optimising cooperation. With the help of stakeholders, MIG will be able to better map potential short and long term opportunities and risks in the field and thus, support the industry development in the country.

Bulgaria is an active EU player in the field of high-performance computing (HPC). In the Action Plan for the implementation of the National development programme BULGARIA 2030 for the period 2022 - 2024 as part of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) in the period 2021 - 2026, Bulgaria is developing a world-class supercomputer named 'Discoverer' that was inaugurated in October 2021 with funding from a joint investment of about EUR 11.5 million from the EuroHPC JU. The new supercomputer, hosted in the 'Sofia Tech Park', is capable of executing more than 6 petaflops peak performance. The main objective of the Discoverer is to stimulate industry and scientific research with modelling and

optimisations in multiple scientific fields, such as pharmaceuticals, bioinformatics and climate. In addition, in the framework of EuroHPC JU, Bulgaria has also established a national HPC competence centre, coordinated by the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IICT-BAS).

In 2021, Bulgaria has been a member of a project funded under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) for the design of a national plan in quantum communications infrastructure (QCI) in the context of the EuroQCI. The project will deploy quantum key distribution systems to develop secure networks. Three Bulgarian ministries will participate in the QCI network deployed between the city of Sofia, Kulata and also a border city in Greece and the pilot project will foster training to public authorities, industry and research staff. Bulgaria's national QCI plan is expected to boost technological developments in the field of quantum communications and cybersecurity. In quantum communication, Bulgaria is therefore expected to contribute to the Digital Decade goal of Europe being at the cutting edge of quantum technologies by 2030.

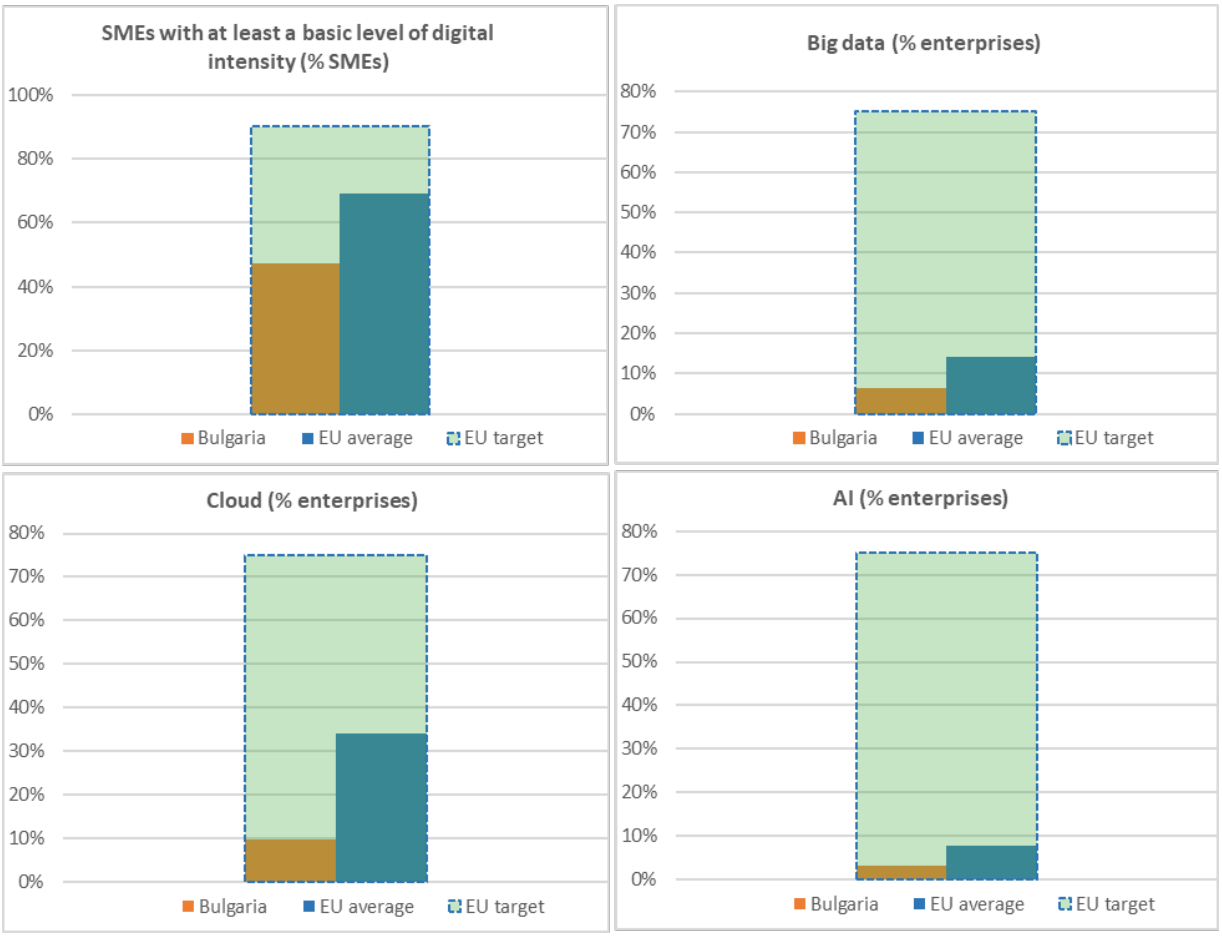
Bulgaria has also been active in the implementation of blockchain infrastructure in the public sector services and EU cross-border services. In 2023, Bulgaria will start pilot projects under the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI).

Bulgaria should accelerate its efforts on connectivity infrastructure, *in particular by taking measures to incentivise the take up of gigabit connectivity and accelerate 5G rollout.*
Measures taken by Bulgaria in the field of semiconductors and quantum computing should continue in order to help the EU become a strong market player in these areas.

3 Digitalisation of businesses

	Bulgaria			EU	EU
	DESI 2021	DESI 2022	DESI 2023	DESI 2023	2030 target
3a1 SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity	**NA**	**NA**	**47%**	**69%**	**90%**
% SMEs			2022	2022	
3b1 Electronic information sharing	**23%**	**22%**	**22%**	**38%**	
% enterprises	2019	2021	2021	2021	
3b2 Social media	**10%**	**13%**	**13%**	**29%**	
% enterprises	2019	2021	2021	2021	
3b3 Big data	**6%**	**6%**	**6%**	**14%**	**75%**
% enterprises	2020	2020	2020	2020	
3b4 Cloud[4]	**NA**	**10%**	**10%**	**34%**	**75%**
% enterprises		2021	2021	2021	
3b5 AI	**NA**	**3%**	**3%**	**8%**	**75%**
% enterprises		2021	2021	2021	
3b6 e-Invoices	**10%**	**10%**	**10%**	**32%**	
% enterprises	2020	2020	2020	2020	
3c1 SMEs selling online	**8%**	**10%**	**11%**	**19%**	
% SMEs	2020	2021	2022	2022	
3c2 e-Commerce turnover	**3%**	**4%**	**5%**	**11%**	
% SME turnover	2020	2021	2022	2022	
3c3 Selling online cross-border	**3%**	**4%**	**4%**	**9%**	
% SMEs	2019	2021	2021	2021	

[4] Enterprises buying sophisticated or intermediate cloud computing services indicator, see Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2023 Methodological Note.



The level of digitalisation of businesses in Bulgaria is well below the EU average and far away from the Digital Decade target. 47% of SMEs have at least a basic level of digital intensity; 6% enterprises use big data versus 14% on average in the EU. The adoption of cloud and AI in enterprises amounts to one third of the EU average and therefore needs to be stepped up in order to contribute to the Digital Decade ambition.

Bulgaria has also introduced measures to underpin the Digital Decade target of more than 90% of Union's SMEs reaching at least a basic level of digital intensity, such as the 'technological modernisation' grant scheme under the RRP which is announced by the Ministry of Innovation and has a total financial allocation of EUR 132.7 million. The main objective of this measure is the digitalisation of the manufacturing process in view of expanding the production capacity and the diversification of products and services. More than 900 Bulgarian enterprises were already supported by the grant scheme with a total of BGN 246 million.

Another initiative of MIG which supports digital transformation of the business sector is the grant scheme 'Solutions in the field of information and communication technologies and cyber security in small and medium-sized enterprises' which is another RRP measure with an aim to accelerate the transition to the digitalisation of the economy. The total budget of this RRP measure is EUR 15.6 million and over 1 500 SMEs are expected to be supported under the scheme. In a similar direction, the promotion of Industry 4.0 standards and the implementation of cybersecurity processes in SMEs is the specific objective of the Competitiveness and Innovation in Enterprises programme 2021 – 2027 which is funded under ERDF with a budget of EUR 194.2 million.

Moreover, the MIG has existing measures for digitalisation of SMEs and foreseen some new ones in 2023. For example, the establishment of the national network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) which provides funding to Bulgarian SMEs to foster digitalisation of their manufacturing processes and creating products and services based on digital technologies. Bulgaria has 4 EDIHs funded by Digital Europe under a co-financing mechanism of 50% to support national projects. Eight additional EDIHs have received the Seal of Excellence and are foreseen to be funded by ERDF programme 'Research, Innovation and Digitalization for smart transformation 2021-2027 (PRIDST)', for example, the grant scheme 'Development of innovations in enterprises' with EUR 64.9 million and the grant scheme 'Implementation of innovations in enterprises' with EUR 150 million, respectively. Their objective is to facilitate growth of innovative SMEs and to boost the innovation and investment activity of Bulgarian businesses. Additional resources in this area are also envisaged to be provided under the form of financial instruments more specifically to provide access to venture capital investments in innovative enterprises.

Finally, Bulgaria has endorsed cross-border synergies towards facilitating digital transformation of businesses. Such a project is the 'Ecologically Viable Business Innovation' which is currently being implemented. The project has a budget of EUR 237 000 and entails the development of digital skills on eco-friendly business models and the digital transformation of businesses.

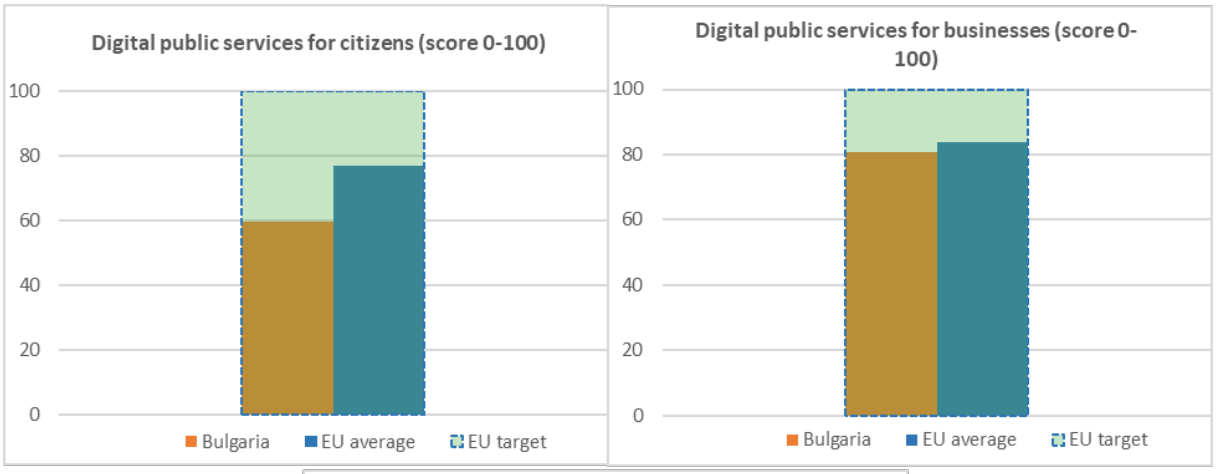
Bulgaria has introduced several measures, including regulatory measures, to contribute to the Digital Decade target of at least 75% of Union enterprises having taken up cloud computing services, big data or artificial intelligence. Bulgaria started developing several data spaces and data platforms. As an example of data spaces, in November 2022, the first Urban Data Space was officially launched. The space allows organisations to share and access data for developing new business products and improving urban services. Regarding data platforms, the iSofMap is an application providing services in the field of geodesy, cadastre, urban planning and geographic information system. It is a commercial company owned by the Sofia Municipality. In April 2022, the institute for Computing Artificial Intelligence and Technologies INSAIT was established in Sofia's University and has created partnerships with other leading institutes worldwide. Bulgaria supports it with nearly EUR 100 million for a period of 10 years with a goal to create a leading technology institute in the country and stimulate innovation in the economy.

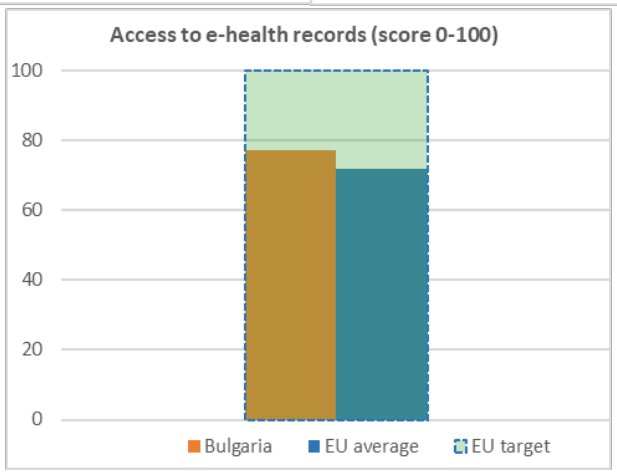
In March 2022, Bulgaria has managed to attract investments for the first unicorn company (Payhawk). Bulgaria has developed a dynamic start-up ecosystem with over 1 600 companies which offer 20% of the total start-up jobs market in south-east Europe. Overall, the developments have fostered links with the local market and the research community and show uptake of digital technologies and jobs growth.

***Bulgaria should significantly step up its efforts in the area of digitalisation of businesses**, in particular, it should take further action towards increasing overall digital intensity in SMEs as well as the adoption of cloud computing services, big data and artificial intelligence.*

4 Digitalisation of public services

	Bulgaria			EU	EU
	DESI 2021	DESI 2022	DESI 2023	DESI 2023	2030 target
4a1 e-Government users % internet users	**NA**	**NA**	**32%** 2022	**74%** 2022	
4a2 Digital public services for citizens Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**59** 2021	**60** 2022	**77** 2022	**100**
4a3 Digital public services for businesses Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**76** 2021	**81** 2022	**84** 2022	**100**
4a4 Pre-filled forms Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**58** 2021	**64** 2022	**68** 2022	
4a5 Transparency of service delivery, design and personal data Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**51** 2021	**51** 2022	**65** 2022	
4a6 User support Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**78** 2021	**82** 2022	**84** 2022	
4a7 Mobile friendliness Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**94** 2021	**95** 2022	**93** 2022	
4b1 Access to e-health records Score (0 to 100)	**NA**	**NA**	**77** 2022	**72** 2022	**100**





There is significant room for improvement for Bulgaria on digital public services, also with regard to its contribution to the EU 2030 targets. The country scores 60 in the digital public services for citizens which is below the EU average (77), but is close to the EU average on digital public services for businesses (81 compared to 84 in the EU average). Only 32% of internet users are accessing e-Government services in Bulgaria, whereas the EU average is 74%. In transparency of service delivery and personal data, the country scores 51 out of 65 in the EU average demonstrating that further effort is necessary also in these aspects. Nevertheless, Bulgaria scores highly on the mobile friendliness score (95) which is already above the EU average (93). Moreover, the country is developing a mobile application Civi that tackles the communication and complaints from citizens to municipalities for urban issues that can further improve its performance.

There are several ongoing initiatives in Bulgaria to foster progress in the dimension of digital public services. For example, the Ministry of Justice in Bulgaria has provided electronic services for access of judicial decisions and has set up an electronic register for certain administrative procedures. The implementation is scheduled to be completed by end of 2023 and the total budget is BGN 431 661.

Moreover, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is implementing a unified public register for spatial planning. The project is planned to be completed in Q3 2023, it has a total budget of BGN 3 million and it is co-financed at 85% from the European Social Fund (ESF).

Bulgaria focuses on data as a crucial capital of society with the strategy for a data-driven governance under the national framework of digital transformation of the public services in managing and operating the public data spaces. In this context, a single web-based platform (one-stop-shop) for data access within the national ecosystem is currently being developed. In this direction, a total of EUR

75 million under PRIDST will be targeted toward digital transformation of the public sector and development of data spaces in priority sectors of high public interest and importance.

Bulgaria has not yet notified the Eurotrust scheme, a pre-notification process was carried out, within which a peer review was carried out. An application for notification of the scheme has been submitted, and the procedure has not been completed.

At the moment, the Ministry of eGovernment's (MEU) mobile application for electronic identification and electronic signature, BGID, is not implemented, and the process has been stopped with a view to making a decision.

Bulgaria has set cybersecurity as a priority axis and therefore aims to improve the national capacity and adapt the competent authorities to constantly track cybersecurity risks and threats. The establishment of a Secure Shared Information Space for E-Government (SSISG) is planned to ensure centralised intelligent management of information resources in public administrations. A specific project is currently under implementation until October 2023 to support municipal administrations with providing cybersecurity expertise. Bulgaria is participating in a Horizon 2020 project (Aviation, Naval and Power-grid environments - FORESIGHT) with a consortium partner, the national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-BG) for training and preparedness on cybersecurity attacks in aviation, naval and power-grid environments. The project has a duration of three years and a budget of EUR 7.3 million.

Bulgaria fosters the project for Development and Implementation of National Health Information System (NHIS) which will include e-health records, e-prescription and a set of other relevant services. The objective is for all people to have access to their personal e-health records through a single web portal and access will also be provided to authorised medical staff. Since September 2022, there is also an accompanying mobile application for accessing personal e-health records available in the NHIS. The mobile application provides also personalised notifications, such as for scheduled doctor appointments. Bulgaria performs above average on providing access to e-health records with a score of 77 compared to the EU average of 71. However, more effort is required to reach the EU 2030 target of 100.

In July 2022, Bulgaria adopted a national plan for the Open Governance Partnership Initiative and among the 14 commitments, five are directly linked to digital citizenship. One of the measures of the national plan refers to the implementation, until the end of 2024, of an effective public dialogue for the development of common standards in the use of artificial intelligence in the digitalisation process in order to ensure guarantees of equal access and respect for human rights.

Bulgaria has established an ICT Community Advisory which will explore interactions with all relevant stakeholders to collect feedback from industry organisations in all areas of digital transformation and support the ministries in policy making.

The State Agency for Child Protection has issued guidelines, together with other government agencies, on how children can be protected from online dangers and actively promotes the use of the national child help line number. Various dissemination events for child safety took place in 2022.

Best practice: Genome Digital Infrastructure (GDI)
As of November 2022, Bulgaria is a partner of the Genome Digital Infrastructure (GDI) project which kicked-off in November 2022. The project will establish the framework for collection of genomic data to be used under research in healthcare. The database will serve for prevention and treatment for many diseases, such as diabetes and cancer.

Moreover, Bulgaria is collaborating with other Member States on a proposal for a Genome EDIC, which supports the 1+ Million Genomes initiative and its European Genomic Data Infrastructure and seeks to establish a trust framework to enable the effective and secure cross-border access to repositories of personal genomic datasets among participating countries.

The duration of the project is 48 months. The participation of Bulgaria has contributed positively to the creation and development of the European Health Data Space.

Bulgaria should accelerate its efforts to digitalise public services. *In particular, it should raise awareness of its public services being available online to all internet users.*